



# NEWSLETTER



## June 2013 Rhode Island County Office

60 Quaker Lane Suite 49  
Warwick, RI 02886

### Hours

Monday-Friday  
8:00 am-4:30 pm

### Phone

401-828-3120 Option 2  
Or 1-800-551-5144  
Farm Loan: Option 3  
Fax: 401-821-0780

### County Committee

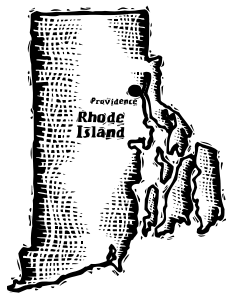
Doreen Pezza-Chairperson  
Gilbert W Rathbun Jr.-Vice  
Chairperson  
Victor Hoogendoorn-Member  
Joseph Silveira-Member  
Lauri Roberts-Member

### County Office Staff

Ingrid Fratantuono, CED  
Anne Belleville, PT  
Leila Naylor, PT  
Sheryl Michener, PT

### Farm Loan Staff

Roxanne Boisse, FLM  
Sandra Steere-Loring, FLA



## Crop Reporting!

After spring planting, producers should certify their 2013 acreage. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

Acreage reports are required for many Farm Service Agency programs. Acreage reports are to be certified by **July 15th for all Annual Crops.**

## DCP/ACRE Deadlines Approach!

The sign-up period for DCP and ACRE is still open. Producers are encouraged to sign up for DCP before the Aug. 2, 2013, deadline. An even earlier deadline is for ACRE, which will end June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment.

Contact the FSA county office for more information, or an appointment to enroll.

## County Committee Nominations

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

County committee members are a critical component of the operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers and ranchers who serve on county committees help with the decisions necessary to administer the programs in their counties. They work to ensure FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

**The COC nomination period runs from June 17, 2013 through Aug. 1, 2013.** For more information contact your local FSA office.

## Special Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our events, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

## Farm Reconstitutions

For FSA program purposes, tracts having the same owner and the same operator are grouped under one farm serial number. When changes in ownership or operation take place, a farm reconstitution is necessary.

The reconstitution—or recon—is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in specific programs.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon:

**Estate Method** — The division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate

**Designation of Landowner Method** — May be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding

**DCP Cropland Method** — The division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract

**Default Method** — The division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

## Banking Changes?

If you changed banks and did not notified FSA, your payment could be delayed. Payments are electronically transferred into your bank account, if we are not aware of changes to your account and routing numbers, there could be problems. In order to make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if another financial institution purchases your bank. It is important that any changes in a producer's account such as type account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers, be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

## Payment Limitations

All payment eligibility and payment limitation provisions, including AGI limitations, are extended for the 2013 crop year, program year, and fiscal year.

All rules and requirements effective for 2012 program payments and benefits are applicable to eligible recipients of 2013 program payment and benefits. This includes the requirements of actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant, substantive change, minor child, and spousal provisions. Payments will continue to be limited by direct attribution to person and legal entity.

### Contributions\*

All partners, stockholders or members with an ownership interest in the legal entity must make a contribution, whether compensated or not compensated, for:

Active personal labor,

Active personal management,

A combination of active personal labor and active personal management to the farming operation

\*Note: There are exceptions for spouses.

Additional information on payment limitations is available at FSA county offices or online at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

## Beginning and Limited Resource Loans

FSA has a program to assist beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed.

Additional program information, loan applications and other materials are available at the local USDA Service Center or visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) and [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).